

Tribal Rights and Interests

This section is a compilation of reports included in the annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report for FY 2005 and 2009. The annual reports provide details on commitments, activities and successes with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The intent is to have this information available in one document for ease of reference and use.

The monitoring questions and drivers are from the 2004 Forest Plan and are the same from year to year. They are presented at the beginning of this document. For each year, there is a background discussion, followed by a listing of monitoring activities and a brief evaluation and conclusion starting with FY 2005.

Monitoring Question:

The Forest Plan states three conditions to be monitored:

- Is Forest management helping to sustain American Indians' way of life, cultural integrity, social cohesion, and economic well being?
- Is the Forest facilitating the right of the Tribe to hunt, fish, and gather as retained via treaty?
- Are government to government relationships functional?

Monitoring Drivers:

D-TR-1 Lands within the Forest serve to help sustain American Indians' way of life, cultural integrity, social cohesion, and economic well-being.

D-TR-2 The Forest Service continues to work within the context of a respectful government-to-government relationship with Tribes, especially in areas of treaty interest, rights, traditional and cultural resources, and ecosystem integrity. The Forests provide opportunities for traditional American Indian land uses and resources.

D-TR-3 The Chippewa National Forest facilitates the exercise of the right to hunt, fish, and gather as retained by Ojibwe whose homelands were subject to treaty in 1855 (10 Stat. 1165). Ongoing opportunities for such use and constraints necessary for resource protection are reviewed and determined in consultation with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

O-TR-1 Improve relationships with American Indian tribes in order to understand and incorporate tribal cultural resources, values, needs, interests, and expectations in forest management and develop and maintain cooperative partnership projects where there are shared goals.

O-TR-2 Maintain a consistent and mutually acceptable approach to government-to-government consultation that provides for effective Tribal participation and facilitates the integration of tribal interests and concerns into the decision-making process.

O-TR-3 The Forest Service will work with the appropriate tribal governments to clarify questions regarding the use and protection of miscellaneous forest products with the objective of planning for and allowing the continued free personal use of these products by band members

within the sustainable limits of the resources.

O-TR-4 Consult, as provided for by law, with Tribes in order to address tribal issues of interest and National Forest management activities and site-specific proposals.

FY 2005

Background:

This is a new element that is being monitored with the 2004 Forest Plan. The Leech Lake Reservation is within the boundary of the Chippewa National Forest.

The Chippewa National Forest has a role in maintaining rights preserved by treaties because it is an office of the federal government responsible for natural resource management on land subject to these treaties. Government to government consultation is ongoing between the Forest Service and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) who were signatory to the Treaty of 1855, however monitoring the status or progress of this consultation is new. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Forest and the Band also speaks to cooperation and forming management partnerships together. The Forest Plan directs implementation of the MOU by providing goals, objectives, standards and guidelines on consultation and interaction between the Forest and the Band. The previous Forest Plan (1986) did not specifically address the relationship, treaties or monitoring of activities that affect the Band.

Tribal Resolution 00-80 authorizes the Director of Leech Lake Division of Resource Management to be the official representative and primary contact in all US Forest Service matters. In a letter to the Band in 2003, Under Secretary for Natural Resources, Mark Rey, committed the Forest Supervisor as the point of contact for government to government relations in lieu of a designated Tribal Liaison.

Monitoring Activities:

The Forest conducted the following activities in conjunction with project planning and implementation:

- Quarterly meetings with the Band's Division of Resource Management director to identify issues and move forward those where agreement exists.
- Contacting Local Indian Councils (15 exist) to discuss future planning and current implementation efforts and identify any historic sites or traditional uses within the project areas, or concerns with the projects.
- Providing a unique Traditional Resource Inventory program involving formal collection of information related to Traditional Cultural Properties. A GIS database is now available for use in project planning.
- Ongoing formal archeological surveys. Beginning in 1986, the Forest helped train LLBO staff to conduct these surveys. The Forest continues to contract that work through the Band.

In August 2005, the Chippewa Forest Leadership Team met with the Leech Lake Band Division Tribal Council to discuss the pattern of government to government interactions for FY 2006.

Regular meetings between the Forest Supervisor and Director of Division of Resource Management were one method for assessing agency relations.

Evaluation and Conclusions:

During FY 2005, Forest staff began to keep better records of interactions with tribal government such as meeting dates to explain project proposals early in the process, issues raised or resolved during development of Environmental Assessments, or discussions between government-to-government officials. This background and feedback allows the Forest to better assess if the proposed indicators to measure sustaining and facilitating relationships, rights and American Indian well-being are the best indicators to measure. More refined records and use of them may result in better project proposals in the future.

The Forest proposes to fill a Tribal Liaison position in 2006, potentially increasing the effectiveness of relationship-building and utilizing project feedback from several levels of tribal government.

Forest is developing a process and protocol that will provide more detailed information for the 2006 Monitoring and Evaluation Report.

FY 2006

Background:

The Chippewa National Forest has a role in maintaining rights preserved by treaties because it is an office of the federal government responsible for natural resource management on land subject to these treaties. Government--to--government consultation is ongoing between the Forest Service and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe who were signatory to the Treaty of 1855, however monitoring the status or progress of this consultation is new.

A 1993 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Forest and the Band also speaks to cooperation and forming management partnerships together. The Forest Plan directs implementation of the MOU by providing goals, objectives, standards and guidelines on consultation and interaction between the Forest and the Band. The previous Forest Plan (1986) did not specifically address the relationship, treaties or monitoring of activities that affect the Band.

Tribal Resolution 00-80 authorizes the Director of Leech Lake Division of Resource Management to be the official representative and primary contact in all US Forest Service matters. In a letter to the Band in 2003, Under Secretary for Natural Resources Mark Rey committed the Forest Supervisor to be the point of contact for government--to--government relations in lieu of a designated Tribal Liaison.

Tribal Rights and Interests were not previously monitored under the 1986 plan. This is a new element that was incorporated into the 2004 Forest Plan.

Monitoring Activities:

There is not a well established protocol on what or how to monitor tribal rights and interests to

determine if the Forest Plan desired conditions and objectives are being met. At this time, an effort is being made to identify and track the commitment and consultation activities that occur on the Forest. A database is not established or used to store and track these activities.

During FY 2006, the Chippewa conducted the following activities:

- Made a written commitment to establish a Tribal Liaison position.
- Made a written commitment to establish an inter-governmental MOU coordination committee between the FS and the Band.
- Facilitated key introductions and relationship building between Tribal and Forest Service Leadership throughout the year for Regional Forester, Regional Tribal Relations Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, Acting/Transitional Forest Supervisor, and new Chippewa Forest Supervisor.
- Participated with the Band in their International Forestry Management Conference interview.
- Solicited tribal input on a national proposal for Ash Seed Collection.
- Initiated the Band's participation in OHV Road Designation Planning
- Contacted Division of Resource Management and Local Indian Councils (15 exist):
 - to discuss project planning and current project implementation efforts and identify concerns, and
 - to identify any historic sites or traditional uses within the project areas.
- Provided a unique Traditional Resource Inventory program involving formal collection of information related to Traditional Cultural Properties. A GIS database is now available for use in project planning.
- Conducted formal archeological surveys. Beginning in 1986, the Forest helped train Leech Lake Band of Objibwe staff to conduct these surveys. The Forest continues to contract that work through the Band.

Evaluation and Conclusions:

During FY 2006, records of interactions with tribal government provided background and feedback that allowed Chippewa National Forest to better assess if the indicators measure how well we are sustaining and facilitating relationships, rights and American Indian well-being.

During transitions of leadership, tribal relations continued to be a priority. Connecting key leaders from both governments helped address key issues that may have potential to disrupt relations.

Progress was made on commitments from FY 2005. The Chippewa conducted outreach and advertisement for a Tribal Liaison position in FY 2006. A Program of Work is to be established in FY 2007 in cooperation with the Band, and a Memorandum of Understanding is to be established. Each of these items help establish mutual measures and expectations in support of resource management, opportunities for partnering to accomplish Forest Plan objectives, and strengthen government--to--government relations.

FY 2007

Background:

~~Beginning in the mid-19th century, the government of the United States made treaties with the Ojibwe that created reservations and ceded areas of land in northern Minnesota to the federal government. In 19028, Congress established the Minnesota National Forest Reserve, the first National Forest east of the Mississippi River, was established from lands within the Leech Lake Reservation that were ceded to the US following allotment. Under subsequent legislation, the Forest Reserve became the Minnesota National Forest. The name was later changed to the Chippewa National Forest to recognize and honor the original inhabitants.~~

The Chippewa NF is located on land subject to treaty between the U.S. and the Ojibwe in 1855. The affected Ojibwe include the Leech Lake Band. The treaty and subsequent treaties, executive orders, and laws established the present boundaries of the Leech Lake Reservation. Most of the reservation ~~is located within~~overlaps the external boundaries of the Chippewa NF and jurisdiction is mixed among many landowners including the Forest and the Band. The Forest boundary now encompasses about 1.6 million acres, with approximately 660,000 acres managed by the Chippewa National Forest. Approximately 44% of the Chippewa NF land is within the Leech Lake ~~Indian~~-Reservation boundary.

The Ojibwe interest in the Chippewa National Forest goes beyond that of spiritual and cultural to the unique legal relationship that the United States government has with tribal governments. These federally recognized tribes have a sovereign status above that of State government. The federal relationship with each tribe was established by, and has been addressed through, the Constitution of the United States, treaties, executive orders, statutes, and court decisions. The federal trust doctrine requires that federal agencies manage the lands under their stewardship with full consideration of tribal rights and interests, particularly reserved rights, where they exist.

-The treaties also preserved the right of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) to hunt, fish, and gather within the treaty area. This guarantee is important in the context of natural resource management. The Chippewa National Forest has a role in maintaining these rights because they are offices of the federal government responsible for natural resource management on lands subject to these treaties.

The continued availability of traditionally utilized natural resources is crucial to ~~the~~ Ojibwe~~culture~~. Now, as in the past, many places throughout the landscape are visited during a yearly cycle to collect food, medicines, and other materials, as well as for religious practices and social gatherings. Plants and animals gathered from prairie openings, aquatic environments, and forests, provide sustenance. The traditions of gathering these and other natural resources continue to be economically and spiritually important. Because of their concern with the continuation of this aspect of Ojibwe culture, the ~~bands-Band~~ takes an active role in the protection and restoration of many species of plants, animals, and fish. The ~~bands-Band~~ also ~~elaim~~claims that access to these resources and traditional cultural places is an inherent right.

There are numerous areas throughout the Forests ~~s~~ that have traditional, cultural, and spiritual significance to the ~~bands~~Ojibwe. The use and protection of these areas is a way of maintaining traditional links to past generations. Traditional use areas often have some aspect of spiritual significance. The ~~bands~~Band ~~believes~~ that archeological sites and past cemetery areas, many of which are unplatted, are sacred and should be protected.

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The Forest Plan management direction generally assures the availability of resources to support the continued exercise of treaty rights and cultural practices and not impair access to such resources and places of traditional practices. Specific availability of resources and access considerations may be determined through government-to-government consultation with the objective of maintaining sufficient availability of resources for the continued harvest or utilization needed to satisfy tribal needs. Trends in species viability, trends in watershed conditions, and changes in access to traditional places are important considerations.

~~The above excerpts are from the Forest Plan, FEIS, Volume I, pp 3.1-3 and 3.1-12 through 15.~~

The Forest and the Band have had a history of cooperation and disagreement on forest management issues. The LLBO appealed the 2004 Revised Forest Plan through the formal administrative appeals process, was affirmed by the Washington Office. The appeal in many ways reflected stated their objections to fundamental aspects of the 2004 Forest Plan. The Appeal Decision determined that LLBO was appropriately consulted throughout the planning process, that the Forest Plan contains provisions that ensure the Forest continue to meet all treaty obligations and trust responsibilities, such as requiring the Forest to consult with tribal governments and consider traditional cultural practices in project decisions. (Chippewa National Forest, Appeal Decision, August 2005). Although the Forest is attempting to follow Forest Plan direction in the area of Tribal Rights and Interests, on subsequent Forest projects, similar comments and appeal points have been repeatedly raised by LLBO. Although disagreements on forest management continue to exist, both the Forest and the Band also continue to consult on projects and engage in cooperative actions.

The bases for government-to-government consultation and cooperation have been established by previous actions by LLBO and the Forest Service. A 1993 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Forest and the Band also speaks to endorses the goal of cooperation and forming management partnerships together. The 2004 Forest Plan directs implementation of the MOU by providing goals, objectives, standards and guidelines on consultation and interaction between the Forest and the Band. ~~The previous Forest Plan (1986) did not specifically address the relationship, treaties or monitoring of activities that affect the Band.~~

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Monitoring Activities:

There is not a well established protocol on what or how to monitor tribal rights and interests to determine if the Forest Plan desired conditions and objectives are being met. At this time, an effort is being made to track activities and commitments made that contribute towards the tribe's way of life, cultural awareness, or economic well being. In addition, we have tried to identify

and track the consultation activities and cooperative activities that occur between the Band and the Forest. A database is not established or used to store and track these activities.

During FY 2007, the Chippewa conducted the following activities.

Table 2: List of activities conducted in FY 2007 by the CNF related to tribal rights and interests.

| Activity | Subject |
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| <p><u>Contacts with Division of Resource Management and Local Indian Councils (13 exist):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>o to discuss project planning and current project implementation efforts and identify concerns, and</u><u>o to identify any historic sites or traditional uses within the project areas.</u> <p><u>The project leaders met with LICs at least 18 times with regard to the following projects: Steamboat, Marcell Northeast, Portage, OHV routes, and recreation residences. These were the larger projects on the forest completed in FY 2007. In addition there were 1-2 meetings per project with THPO and DRM.</u></p> <p><u>Discussion via phone with THPO and the DRM Wildlife Biologist occurred after publication of each NEPA Quarterly (published quarterly). This publication lists all the ongoing and upcoming projects on the forest. This has been an effective way to determine if there are any concerns and to assess the need for further discussion, information, or meetings-- particularly on smaller projects.</u></p> | <p><u>Relationships</u></p> <p><u>Cultural input</u></p> |
| <p><u>Seed Collection-- The CNF has contracted with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe for native woody seed collection to increase their seed bank for woody species. In 2007, the Tribe collected 247 pounds of June berries, 339 pounds of pin cherries, 304 pounds of Hawthorne fruit, 9 pounds of American mountain ash and 7.5 bushels of eastern larch cones. The CNF also purchased winery "mash" in 2007 that consisted of 189 pounds of black chokeberries, 249 pounds of highbush cranberries, and 342 pounds of chokeberries. These various berries were gathered by tribal members, sold to the winery, and then sold by the winery to the Forest Service after the juice was extracted. In 2006, the Tribe collected two pounds of hawthorn fruit, 25 bushels of eastern larch cones, 5 ½ bushels of mixed acorns and 11 ¼ bushels of northern white cedar cones.</u></p> | <p><u>Cultural</u></p> <p><u>Species</u></p> <p><u>Diversity</u></p> <p><u>Employment</u></p> |
| <p><u>Planting White Cedar in wildlife openings; planting of Canada yew is planned (Portage Lake DN pg 5).</u></p> | <p><u>Cultural</u></p> <p><u>Species</u></p> <p><u>Diversity</u></p> |

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| <u>Forest Supervisor, Rob Harper, met with Division of Resource Management Director, Rich Robinson, and/or Chairman George Goggeye, Jr. at least seven times throughout the year. This exceeds the initial goal of meetings on a quarterly basis. This does not include the meetings that were scheduled and cancelled on a number of occasions.</u> | <u>Relationships</u> |
| <u>A Tribal Liaison position developed in cooperation with the LLBO was filled. Neil Peterson, a CNF employee will spend 40% of his time in that position. The liaison position is designed to focus on outreach and recruitment for employment, mutual cultural awareness, initiating development of a Memorandum of Understanding, and partnership building with LLBO.</u> | <u>Cultural Awareness</u> <u>Partnership</u> |
| <u>The Forest has the following Agreements in place with the LLBO: Cass Lake Ranger Station Maintenance, Impoundment Maintenance, Boy River Prescribed Burn, Archeological Surveys, Illegal Dumps Clean-up, and Noxious Weeds. There is also in place an Agreement with the Leech Lake Tribal College for the Camp Rabideau Restoration. With the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) there are agreements in place for wildland fire protection, prescribed burning, and Minnesota Interagency Fire Center (MIFC).</u> | <u>Employment</u> <u>Partnerships</u> |
| <u>Beginning in 1986, the Forest helped train Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe staff to conduct formal archeological surveys. The Forest continues to contract that work with the Leech Lake Heritage Sites Program through a Participating Agreement with a 65%-35% cost share. The total value of the 2007 PA was \$147,085.</u> | <u>Employment</u> <u>Cultural</u> |
| <u>"Little Pinky" Stewardship project between Blackduck District & LLBO was awarded in August 2007. The project will use funds generated from a timber harvest to reforest 7 permanent openings in 2008 (14 ac).</u> | <u>Employment</u> |
| <u>Lydick Stewardship project was approved August 2007. Regeneration jack pine will promote undergrowth such as blueberry, a traditional use plant important to the LLBO.</u> | <u>Cultural</u> <u>Species diversity</u> |
| <u>Implementation began in October 2007 of a Forest-Tribal agreement to cooperatively clean up illegal dump sites in key riparian areas on the CNF using the skills of the Leech Lake Public Works Department and CNF Soil/Water expertise. In August 07 this partnership was highlighted in a presentation by the Tribal Liaison at the Minnesota Tribal Conference.</u> | <u>Restoration</u> <u>Partnership</u> |
| <u>An American Elm Restoration Project is currently being planned to restore tolerant species to the land. LLBO is one of the partners.</u> | <u>Species Diversity</u> <u>Restoration</u> <u>Cultural</u> <u>Partnership</u> |
| <u>A Traditional Cultural Resources and Properties workshop was held in February 2007 to help interdisciplinary teams use a database of traditional resource information. A protocol was developed and implemented that facilitate communication with Local Indian Councils, and 106 consultation.</u> | <u>Cultural Awareness</u> |
| <u>In March 2007, CNF worked with LLBO and BIA to identify FS roads for inclusion in the Indian Reservation Roads inventory (IRR). The IRR program is the tribal equivalent of the Federal Highways program and has excellent potential for new cooperation, maintenance and improvement of FS roads.</u> | <u>Employment</u> <u>Partnership</u> |

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| <u>In April 2007, approximately 930 acres of the Boy River Prescribed Burn project (a 6000 acre complex) was completed with the cooperation of several partners, including LLBO. In January 2008, it was announced that the Boy River Prescribed Burn partnership has received the National Wings Across the Americas "Habitat and Partnership" award for their conservation efforts with the yellow rail. Partners include the Chippewa National Forest, Leech Lake Division of Resource Management, Cass County, two DNR Regions, and multiple private partners. The award recognizes outstanding bird conservation efforts by Forest Service employees and partners. The Boy River partnership began in 2001, and was implemented beginning in 2004 with the first prescribed burn in the Boy River area with the specific objective of habitat improvement for yellow rail. Spring 2008 will mark the 5th year of the Boy River prescribed burn, and is a notable point in the monitoring process to show success of the rail project.</u> | <u>Employment Partnership</u> |
| <u>In May 2007, the Minnesota Conservation Award was presented to the CNF for acquisition of the former Cedar Springs Resort property on Leech Lake. Partners, including LLBO, were also recognized for their efforts to bring this property into public ownership to benefit aquatic resources.</u> | <u>Restoration Partnership</u> |
| Employee Heritage Day, June 2007, included Leech Lake Chairman George Goggeye, Jr., Cass Lake Mayor Wayne LaDuke, Ojibwe drummers and dancers. The day was developed to help employees explore the cultural diversity of the community around the forest, the diversity of its employees, and the cultural history that helped shape the area we now call the Chippewa National Forest. | Cultural Awareness |
| <u>"Little Pinky" Stewardship project between Blackduck District & LLBO was awarded in August 2007. The project will use funds generated from a timber harvest to reforest 7 permanent openings in 2008 (14 ac).</u> | <u>Employment</u> |
| <u>Lydick Stewardship project was approved August 2007. Regeneration jack pine will promote undergrowth such as blueberry, a traditional use plant important to the LLBO.</u> | <u>Cultural Species diversity</u> |
| During summer 2007, four youth from the Leech Lake Reservation participated in the YCC program (Youth Conservation Corps) at Deer River and Walker. Two members of the LLBO also worked on fire crews at the Walker and Blackduck Districts. | Employment Training |
| <u>In May 2007, the Minnesota Conservation Award was presented to the CNF for acquisition of the former Cedar Springs Resort property on Leech Lake. Partners, including LLBO, were also recognized for their efforts to bring this property into public ownership to benefit aquatic resources.</u> | <u>Restoration Partnership</u> |
| <u>In April 2007, approximately 930 acres of the Boy River Prescribed Burn project (a 6000 acre complex) was completed with the cooperation of several partners, including LLBO. In January 2008, it was announced that the Boy River Prescribed Burn partnership has received the National Wings Across the Americas "Habitat and Partnership" award for their conservation efforts with the yellow rail. Partners include the Chippewa National Forest, Leech Lake Division of Resource Management, Cass County, two DNR Regions, and multiple private partners. The award, which recognizes outstanding bird conservation efforts by Forest Service employees and partners, will be presented at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference in March. The Boy River partnership began in 2001, and was implemented beginning in 2004 with the first prescribed burn in the Boy River area with the specific objective of habitat improvement for yellow rail. Spring 2008 will mark the 5th year of the Boy River prescribed burn, and is a notable point in the monitoring process to show success of the rail</u> | <u>Employment Partnership</u> |

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| project. | |
| In March 2007, CNF worked with LLBO and BIA to identify FS roads for inclusion in the Indian Reservation Roads inventory (IRR). The IRR program is the tribal equivalent of the Federal Highways program and has excellent potential for new cooperation, maintenance and improvement of FS roads. | Employment Partnership |
| The Forest Service, Minnesota Conservation Corps, Lady Slipper Scenic Byway Association, and the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians are cooperating to initiate a pilot conservation-based language immersion camp located at Rabideau CCC National Historic Landmark on the Blackduck Ranger District in the summer of 2008. The Red Lake Tribal Council has as one of its highest priorities the well-being, health and future of its children and families. The Red Lake Department of Family and Children's services has been mandated to develop and implement programs and services for the safety, well-being and positive development of Red Lake children and families. Young people will have a place to go to simultaneously gain work experience, earn an educational stipend, learn about the natural environment of which they are a part, or reconnect with cultural and family activities. | Environmental & Cultural Awareness Training Employment |
| In fall of 2007, the CNF hosted Susan Johnson– R2 Tribal Relations Program Manager. Susan's visit was to help the CNF and LLBO better understand the Tribal Forest Protection Act, and Stewardship Contracting as one tool for establishing long term economic/employment opportunities for the Band. The meeting helped the Forest and LLBO to better understand the capacity of the Band to launch into a forest based economic venture under authorities of the Tribal Forest Protection Act. There was consensus more discussion needs to occur as to what Forest projects would serve the Bb band's interests. It was also evident that the questions about tribal capacity would need further exploration before the Band can develop a solid proposal. | Economic Development and Partnerships |
| A Tribal Liaison position developed in cooperation with the LLBO was filled. Neil Peterson, a CNF employee will spend 40% of his time in that position. The liaison position is designed to focus on outreach and recruitment for employment, mutual cultural awareness, initiating development of a Memorandum of Understanding, and partnership building with LLBO. | Cultural Awareness Partnership |
| Implementation began in October 2007 of a Forest-Tribal agreement to cooperatively clean up illegal dump sites in key riparian areas on the CNF using the skills of the Leech Lake Public Works Department and CNF Soil/Water expertise. In August 07 this partnership was highlighted in a presentation by the Tribal Liaison at the Minnesota Tribal Conference. | Restoration Partnership |
| The CNF co-sponsored a Tribal Relations Training with the Huron Manistee National Forest. Attendees included the Forest Supervisor and Deer River District Ranger. | Cultural Awareness |
| Training and information on Treaty Rights and Trust Responsibilities was conducted for the Forest Leadership Team in December 2007. | Cultural Awareness |
| A Traditional Cultural Resources and Properties workshop was held in February 2007 to help interdisciplinary teams use a database of traditional resource information. A protocol was developed and implemented that facilitate communication with Local Indian Councils, and 106 consultation. | Cultural Awareness |

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| Seed Collection-- The CNF has contracted with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe for native woody seed collection to increase their seed bank for woody species. In 2007, the Tribe collected 247 pounds of June berries, 339 pounds of pin cherries, 304 pounds of Hawthorne fruit, 9 pounds of American mountain ash and 7.5 bushels of eastern larch cones. The CNF also purchased winery "mash" in 2007 that consisted of 189 pounds of black chokeberries, 249 pounds of highbush cranberries, and 342 pounds of chokecherries. These various berries were gathered by tribal members, sold to the winery, and then sold by the winery to the Forest Service after the juice was extracted. In 2006, the Tribe collected two pounds of hawthorn fruit, 25 bushels of eastern larch cones, 5 ½ bushels of mixed acorns and 11 ¼ bushels of northern white cedar cones. | Cultural Species Diversity Employment |
| CNF seedling order (1/2008) for FY 2008 includes 1300 cranberry, 500 mountain ash, 5000 white cedar, 1000 hawthorn, 1,000 plum, 500 Canada yew seedlings, for an estimated total of 9,300 seedlings. Anticipated order for FY 2009 and 2010 is for 17,000-19,000 seedlings that include cranberry, mountain ash, white cedar, hawthorn, plum, various cherries, Juneberry, and Canada yew. | Species diversity Restoration |
| Planting White Cedar in wildlife openings; planting of Canada yew is planned (Portage Lake DN pg 5). | Cultural Species Diversity |
| An American Elm Restoration Project is currently being planned to restore tolerant species to the land. LLBO is one of the partners. | Species Diversity Restoration Cultural Partnership |
| Forest representatives participated in the Leech Lake Career fair held annually at the Northern Lights Casino. Emphasis was placed on awareness of student employment and Youth Conservation Corp seasonal employment opportunities. | Outreach Employment |
| In FY-07 the Tribal Liaison assisted in facilitating consultation with Tribes on the agency's Sacred Sites policy & Special Forest Products and Forest Botanical Products Proposed Rule. | Consultation |
| The Forest has the following Agreements in place with the LLBO: Cass Lake Ranger Station Maintenance, Impoundment Maintenance, Boy River Prescribed Burn, Archeological Surveys, Illegal Dumps Clean-up, and Noxious Weeds. There is also in place an Agreement with the Leech Lake Tribal College for the Camp Rabideau Restoration. With the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) there are agreements in place for wildland fire protection, prescribed burning, and Minnesota Interagency Fire Center (MIFC). | Employment Partnerships |
| Some new mitigation measures were developed for vegetation management projects to assist birch bark, balsam bough, and firewood gatherers. We will identify stands, provide, provide maps to Local Indian Communities (LICs) and THPO (Gina Lemon), and publish information in the tribal newspaper, <i>The DeBahJiMon</i> . | Employment |
| Contacted Division of Resource Management and Local Indian Councils (15 exist): to discuss project planning and current project implementation efforts and identify concerns, and | Relationships Cultural input |

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| <p>to identify any historic sites or traditional uses within the project areas.</p> <p>The project leaders met with LICs at least 18 times with regard to the following projects: Steamboat, Marcell Northeast, Portage, OHV routes, and recreation residences. These were the larger projects on the forest completed in FY 2007. In addition there were 1-2 meetings per project with THPO and DRM.</p> <p>Discussion via phone with THPO and the DRM Wildlife Biologist occurred after publication of each <i>NEPA Quarterly</i> (published quarterly). This publication lists all the ongoing and upcoming projects on the forest. This has been an effective way to determine if there are any concerns and to assess the need for further discussion, information, or meetings-- particularly on smaller projects.</p> | |
| <p>Forest Supervisor, Rob Harper, met with Division of Resource Management Director, Rich Robinson, and/or Chairman George Goggleye, Jr. at least seven times throughout the year. This exceeds the initial goal of meetings on a quarterly basis. This does not include the meetings that were scheduled and cancelled on a number of occasions.</p> | Relationships |
| <p>Beginning in 1986, the Forest helped train Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe staff to conduct formal archeological surveys. The Forest continues to contract that work through the Band.</p> | Employment Cultural |
| <p>Doing what we said we would do</p> | |
| <p>Efforts and concerns with regard to blueberry enhancement and crops are discussed in the Fire and Studies section of the Monitoring & Evaluation Report.</p> | Cultural |

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Appeal of Steamboat Resource Management Project:

The DRM and Oak Point LIC of the LLBO appealed the Steamboat Resource Management Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice. The Decision Notice was signed on September 12, 2007. Nine main issues were raised in their appeal. The tribe alleged that the Forest failed to meet the Forest Plan Desired Conditions, Objectives, Standards and Guidelines identified in the Tribal Right and Interests section (pp 2-35 and 2-36). Briefly, the appeal points were:

1. Environmentally Sustainable Commodity Opportunities.
2. Environmentally Sustainable Non-Commodity Opportunities
3. Cultural Values/Aesthetic Qualities
4. Accessibility Opportunities for Traditional American Indian land Uses and Resources
5. Disclosure of Environmental Effects on Cultural Properties
6. Tribal Relations/Consultation
7. Religious Beliefs and Practices
8. Cultural Awareness, Sensitivity, and Tribal Issues
9. Plant and Animal Species, Traditional Use

The project alternatives and project record showed that the Steamboat Project was in accordance with the Forest Plan. However, the trade-offs and environmental effects of additional stands on Oak Point that were added to the selected alternative were not clearly analyzed and disclosed. As a result, harvest in six stands on Oak Point was dropped.

Evaluation and Conclusions:

During FY 2007, records of interactions with tribal government provided background and feedback that allowed Chippewa National Forest to better assess if the indicators measure how well we are sustaining and facilitating relationships, rights and American Indian well-being.

Progress was made on commitments from FY 2005 and FY 2006. The Chippewa NF created and filled a Tribal Liaison position in FY 2007. A Program of Work was established in cooperation with the Band. Work on a Memorandum of Understanding is in progress. A wide variety of cooperative activities and consultation efforts have been implemented. Each of these items helps establish mutual measures and expectations in support of resource management, opportunities for partnering to accomplish Forest Plan objectives, and strengthen government--to--government relations. Further recommendations include:

- Continue steps to draft Memorandum of Understand with the LLBO to help guide working relationships and define a more consistent manner for working together.
- Conduct analysis of amount of FS contracts awarded to small and disadvantaged & Tribal businesses with goal of increasing this to help promote and support local economy.
- Develop participating agreement with the Leech Lake Tribal College, that provides Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program participants greater exposure and practical training in the Forest Service.
- Continue consultation with the LLBO and Forest Staff Specialists on the status of the Section 106 [Participating Programmatic](#) Agreement with the goals of obtaining a signed agreement in FY 08.
- Continue efforts that facilitate greater involvement of all Tribal members in FS programs and activities afforded the general public.
- Explore establishment of a LLBO Liaison that would work with the Forest Service and other agencies. To accomplish this would require finding a funding source to cover costs associated with the position.
- Continue connecting key leaders from both governments to help address key issues that may have potential to disrupt relations. Continue to develop relationships and partnerships with LLBO. Turnover in personnel in key positions within the Forest Service and LLBO often hinders our abilities to develop common ground, shared goals in specific areas, and opportunities to move forward. Relationships and trust often need to be re-established as a result of personnel changes.

FY 2008

Background:

Government to Government consultation is continuous between the Chippewa National Forest

and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, who were signatory to the Treaty of 1855. Approximately 44% of Chippewa National Forest lands lie within the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, and the Band has reservation lands within the boundary of Chippewa National Forest along with rights reserved by treaty throughout the Forest.

The Forest Plan management direction generally assures the availability of resources to support the continued exercise of treaty rights and cultural practices and not impair access to such resources and places of traditional practices. Specific availability of resources and access considerations may be determined through government-to-government consultation with the objective of maintaining sufficient availability of resources for the continued harvest or utilization needed to satisfy tribal needs.

The basis for government-to-government consultation and cooperation has been established by previous actions by LLBO and the Forest Service. In 2007, a part-time Tribal Liaison position was established in cooperation with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The National Forest and the Band agreed to four tribal relations goals for 2008 - 09 emphasizing outreach and recruitment, partnership building, developing mutual cultural awareness, and initiating development of a Memorandum of Understanding. Consultation is not isolated to the Forest Supervisor or Tribal Liaison and occurs broadly at all levels of both governments.

During the Chippewa National Forest centennial year, Forest Leadership met with the outgoing tribal council and Senator Norm Coleman to review successes and challenges of government to government consultation. A mid-year tribal election resulted in a change of tribal council leadership, and a new working relationship was established between the Forest Supervisor, Tribal Chairman and two Executive Directors of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

Monitoring Activities:

Efforts are underway to track activities and commitments made that contribute towards the tribe's way of life, cultural awareness, or economic well being. In addition, we have tried to identify and track the consultation activities and cooperative activities that occur between the Band and the Forest as they relate to the 4 strategic goals.

CULTURAL AWARENESS

In June the Forest Multi-Cultural Team coordinated a day-long event that included the outgoing Tribal Chairman acknowledging the benefits of working together in a Government –Government manner, his Native American traditions and values. A tribal Elder also spoke. The day included an Ojibwe dance group.

In May, a Diversity Day was hosted by the Leech Lake Band, including speakers on workplace culture and overcoming barriers in the workplace. Several FS employees attended.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

In February 2008 Forest Supervisor, Tribal Liaison, and Technical Services Team Leader met with the LLBO Tribal Council to provide an update on FS activities underway and planned that promote gov – gov relationships between the Chippewa National Forest and the Band. Additional coordination meetings occurred throughout the year including the LLBO Director of Division of Resource Management and Executive Directors for LLBO.

The Tribal Liaison has been meeting with Gina Lemon, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer at least quarterly to assess progress on the Section 106 programmatic agreement. In addition to discussing the agreement, the THPO has brought other issues forward for research and forest responses that the Tribal Liaison has facilitated.

The Tribal Liaison accompanied Rangers and Planning Teams in consultation and project planning meetings involving the LLBO Division of Resource Management.

EMPLOYMENT/OUTREACH

On two separate occasions the Tribal Liaison made presentations to LLBO job club participants with the intent of informing participants about Forest Service careers and application procedures.

For at least the last five years Chippewa National Forest employees have participated in the Leech Lake band of Ojibwe annual career fair. The Chippewa N.F. is also represented at the annual Leech Lake Tribal College and White Earth Band of Ojibwe career fairs. Tribal Liaison visited the Fond du Lac Tribal College in October to present career information to students.

In FY 08 the Chippewa recruited two Native American students ages 15-18 who spent 8 weeks working in the Youth Conservation Corp program.

The Blackduck Ranger District hosted a STEP student, a member of the Navajo Tribe, from Southwest Indian Poly-Technical Institute. Recruitment was accomplished through the Native American Strategic Hiring Initiative. The student was exposed to wide variety of Forest Service projects.

In March the Chippewa Tribal Liaison participated in a futuring meeting organized by the Leech Lake Tribal College faculty. This meeting brought together leaders representing multiple private/state/federal entities to discuss employment outlook in their respective agencies.

The Forest hosted four STEM program students from the Leech Lake Tribal College for a period of 10-12 weeks. Three students were mentored by a Public Affairs Specialist. The fourth student worked on the Deer River R.D. with a Forestry Technician.

The Forest hosted three participants of the Native Employment Works (NEW) program. Funded by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, the NEW program provides culturally appropriate services to all Minnesota Chippewa Tribe members in the service area who receive Minnesota Family Investment Program funds (MFIP) and are not served by the bands. The Forests contribution was to provide employment and training to tribal MFIP recipients to increase independence from Welfare system.

The Blackduck Ranger District employed a member of the Red Lake Band of Ojibwe and a student at Red Lake Tribal College through the STEP program during the summer of FY 08.

The Forest hosted 22 Native American volunteers in various projects in FY 2008.

In FY 2008 there were several contracts and agreements with Native American businesses and cooperators. The Forest spent roughly \$2,760,586 in Contracting/Purchasing, of which \$473,228 (about 17%) went to Native American Owned Business. Roughly \$174,516 in Agreements for the Chippewa Forest was obligated of which \$102,074 (58%) was with Native American Owned cooperators.

PARTNERSHIPS

Blackduck Public Services Team Leader and Camp Rabideau Coordinator hosted multiple meetings involving the Red Lake, Bois Forte and Leech Lake Bands in exploring options for utilizing Camp Rabideau CCC camp for learning academy activities. In July 2008, thirty young band members became the first group to conduct a language immersion course at the historic site.

The Forest participated in the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society annual conference held in Walker, Mn. The conference provided invaluable networking opportunities and a greater understanding of the various roles and challenges within the Tribal Resource Management programs.

Under a participating agreement with the Leech Lake Band, Solid Waste Department and the Chippewa National Forest a total of 27 illegal dumpsites were cleaned up in FY 2008. The amount of refuse removed was estimated at 260 cubic yds. Clean-up was conducted by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Solid Waste Dept. and the Day Labor Program. The funds to pay for the tipping fees and equipment costs were provided by the Chippewa National Forest. The Forest Soils Scientist gave a presentation about the project in September at the Native American Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conference. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) and the Chippewa National Forest received a Forest Service Eastern Region Honor Award in December for Protecting Ecosystems Across Boundaries. Three LLBO Local Indian Councils (Bena, Mission and Ball Club) were attended to tell them about the clean-up efforts and to get their input on how to prevent more dumping. Publicity about the partnership was in the local newspapers and included in a presentation about burning barrels. Monitoring of sites that were cleaned up in 2007 was accomplished.

A total of five agreements were executed with the Leech Lake Band to accomplish mutual projects and goals. These included; Cass Lake Ranger Station Utilities, 2008 Heritage Surveys, Cooperative Fire Protection, Leech Lake Tribal College STEM Interns, Illegal Dumps clean-up. Roughly \$174,516 in Agreements for the Chippewa Forest was obligated of which \$102,074 (58%) was with Native American Owned cooperators.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Contacts with Division of Resource Management and Local Indian Councils (15 exist):

- o to discuss project planning and current project implementation efforts and identify concerns, and
- o to identify any historic sites or traditional uses within the project areas.

The project leaders met with LICs with regard to the following projects: Lower East Winnie, Lydick, Cuba Hill, and Non-native Invasive Plant (NNIP) Management projects. Except for the NNIP project, these are the larger projects completed in FY 2008. In addition there were 1-2 meetings per project with THPO and DRM.

Discussion via phone with THPO and the DRM Wildlife Biologist occurred after publication of each NEPA Quarterly (published quarterly) or Schedule of Proposed Actions. This publication lists all the ongoing and upcoming projects on the forest. This has been an effective way to identify any concerns and to assess the need for further discussion, information, or meetings--particularly on smaller projects.

Lydick Resource Management project is located on the Blackduck district and is in a tribal high interest area. District personnel met with Local Indian Councils (LICs) 14 times, met with DRM 10 times and had 4 field trips to the project area. The FS responded to LLBO concerns and comments with the following actions.

- Deferred harvest and other treatments in 164 acres of over mature jack pine
- Changed 215 acres of mechanical scarification to prescribed burning which is consistent with natural ecosystem processes and would benefit blueberry production.
- Replaced mechanical scarification in a riparian area with hand scarification.
- Deferred clearcutting in a block of mature red pine.
- Planned conversion of some stands to jack pine.
- Planned for planting fruiting shrubs in permanent openings.

Cuba Hill Vegetation Management Project is on the Walker District. This project is in a tribal high interest area. District personnel met with LICs on 6 different occasions. In response to concerns raised early in the project, several stands in the Ten Section area were deferred from treatment. In the Cuba Hill Decision Notice, three stands were dropped to better respond to tribal concerns and interests. The Cuba Hill Environmental Assessment identified 21 acres of existing openings to plant to upland tamarack, white pine, and American plum.

Lower East Winnie Vegetation Management Project is located on the Deer River District. The majority of the project area is in tribal high interest area. District personnel met with LICs on 10 different occasions. Project was designed to make balsam boughs available, minimize impacts to understory species of interest such as princess pine, and address harvest in 100 year old red pine which is of spiritual value by reducing the acres of clearcutting in tribal areas of high interest. In addition, about 50 acres of permanent openings are planned for planting with fruiting shrubs; during release activities fruiting shrubs will be protected; some red pine will be converted to jack pine stands that are more natural in appearance (varied spacing & density); some stands will be managed for blueberry by harvesting and burning; firewood and birch bark will be made available; and regeneration of paper birch will occur to ensure a future resource.



An **American Elm Restoration Project** is currently being planned to restore tolerant species to the land. LLBO is one of the partners.

The **Boy River prescribed burn** is one of several

safely executed burns. This fire-dependant wet meadow has had one rotation of fire to each part of its ecosystem, which provides habitat for Yellow Rail and other wetland species. Partners include Cass County, two regions of MN DNR, private owners, the Leech Lake Band, and the Forest Service. The Burn Partnership project was awarded the National Wings Across the Americas "Habitat and Partnership" award for habitat improvement affecting the Yellow Rail.

In 2008, **planting or seeding of fruiting shrubs** --cranberry, mountain ash, white cedar, hawthorn, plum, chokecherry, and tamarack occurred on the districts. In addition, Canada yew – a Regional Forester Sensitive Species, and LLBO sensitive species-- was planted on two districts.

The CNF planned and hosted a **Forest Insect and Disease Workshop** in March. Employees from the Minnesota DNR, Leech Lake Division of Resource Management and BIA were in attendance. Presentations by the Northern Research Station– St. Paul office and the MN Department of Agriculture addressed the advent of the emerald ash borer, sirex wood wasp and gypsy moth to our area.

Stewardship projects

"Little Pinky" Stewardship project between Blackduck District & LLBO was awarded in August 2007. The project will use funds generated from a timber harvest to reforest 7 permanent openings in 2008 (14 ac). The site preparation for the opening planting is about 2/3 complete. Timber harvest is scheduled to begin in 2009. This contract was designed to build relationships between the LLBO and the CNF.

Lydick Stewardship project was approved August 2007. Regeneration of jack pine will promote undergrowth such as blueberry, a traditional use plant important to the LLBO. The contract is intended to restore traditional plants and improve relations with regard to trust responsibilities. Contract award is anticipated in 2010.

Evaluation and Conclusions:

During FY 2008, a wide variety of cooperative activities and consultation efforts have been implemented. Work on a Memorandum of Understanding is still in progress. Each of these items helps establish mutual measures and expectations in support of resource management, opportunities for partnering to accomplish Forest Plan objectives, and strengthen government--to--government relations. Further recommendations include:

- Continue steps to draft Memorandum of Understand with the LLBO to help guide working relationships and define a more consistent manner for working together. Focus will be on OHV and tree stand use.
- Develop participating agreement with the Leech Lake Tribal College, that provides Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program participants greater exposure and practical training in the Forest Service.

- Continue consultation with the LLBO and Forest Staff Specialists on the status of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement with the goals of obtaining a signed agreement in FY 09.
- Continue efforts that facilitate greater involvement of all Tribal members in FS programs and activities afforded the general public.
- Continue connecting key leaders from both governments to help address key issues that may have potential to disrupt relations. Continue to develop relationships and partnerships with LLBO.

FY 2009

Background:

Government to Government consultation is continuous between the Chippewa National Forest and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, who were signatory to the Treaty of 1855. Approximately 44% of Chippewa National Forest lands lie within the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, and the Band has reservation lands within the boundary of Chippewa National Forest along with rights reserved by treaty throughout the Forest.

The Forest Plan management direction generally assures the availability of resources to support the continued exercise of treaty rights and cultural practices and not impair access to such resources and places of traditional practices. Specific availability of resources and access considerations may be determined through government-to-government consultation with the objective of maintaining sufficient availability of resources for the continued harvest or utilization needed to satisfy tribal needs.

The basis for government-to-government consultation and cooperation has been established by previous actions by LLBO and the Forest Service. In 2007, a part-time Tribal Liaison position was established in cooperation with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The Chippewa Liaison continued to function in a part-time capacity in 2009. The National Forest and the Band worked together cooperatively under formal agreements and informally toward achieving 2008-2009 tribal relations goals. These goals emphasize outreach and recruitment, partnership building, developing mutual cultural awareness, and initiating development of a Memorandum of Understanding. Consultation is not isolated to the Forest Supervisor or Tribal Liaison and occurs broadly at all levels of both governments.

During FY-2009 the Chippewa National Forest continued cooperative efforts with the Leech Lake Band in developing a Section 106 Programmatic Agreement. The Forest Supervisor and Tribal Liaison each maintained frequent contacts with Leech Lake elected leaders and Program Directors through formal face-face meetings, correspondence and e-mails.

Monitoring Activities:

Efforts are underway to track activities and commitments made that contribute towards the tribe's way of life, cultural awareness, or economic well being. In addition, we have tried to identify and track the consultation activities and cooperative activities that occur between the Band and the Forest as they relate to the 4 strategic goals.

CULTURAL AWARENESS

In May, a Diversity Day was hosted by the Leech Lake Band, including speakers on workplace culture and overcoming barriers in the workplace. Chippewa Tribal Liaison, Neil Peterson presented at the session.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

In June 2009 Chippewa Tribal Liaison participated in Tribal Consultation training offered by the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest offered in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. The session was instructed by a Forest Service retiree and former Northwest Region, Tribal Relations Specialist. In June 2009 the Tribal Liaison, Forest Supervisor and Tribal Liaison met with the LLBO Tribal Council to provide an update on FS activities underway and planned that promote gov – gov relationships between the Chippewa National Forest and the Band. The Regional Forester presented an engraved axe to the Tribal Council in recognition of the Bands efforts to work cooperatively with the Chippewa in promoting gov-gov relationships. Additional coordination meetings occurred throughout the year including the LLBO Director of Division of Resource Management and Executive Directors for LLBO.

The Tribal Liaison has been meeting with Gina Lemon, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer at least quarterly to assess progress on the Section 106 programmatic agreement. In addition to discussing the agreement, the THPO has brought other issues forward for research and forest responses that the Tribal Liaison has facilitated.

The Tribal Liaison accompanied Rangers and Planning Teams in consultation and project planning meetings involving the LLBO Division of Resource Management.

EMPLOYMENT/OUTREACH

On two separate occasions the Tribal Liaison made presentations to LLBO job club participants with the intent of informing participants about Forest Service careers and application procedures.

For at least the last six years Chippewa National Forest employees have participated in the Leech Lake band of Ojibwe annual career fair. The Chippewa N.F. is also represented at the annual Leech Lake Tribal College and White Earth Band of Ojibwe career fairs. Tribal Liaison visited the Fond du Lac Tribal College in October to present career information to students.

In FY 09 the Chippewa recruited 12 Native Americans (2 though YCC) through seasonal hiring authorities. One Native American SCEP student was converted on the Deer River ranger District.

The Forest hosted three STEM program students from the Leech Lake Tribal College for a period of 10-12 weeks. Two students were mentored by a Public Affairs Specialist. The third was hosted on a District and mentored as a Forest Technician.

The Forest hosted two participants of the Native Employment Works (NEW) program. Funded by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, the NEW program provides culturally appropriate services to all Minnesota Chippewa Tribe members in the service area who receive Minnesota Family Investment Program funds (MFIP) and are not served by the bands. The Forests contribution was to provide employment

and training to tribal MFIP recipients to increase independence from the Welfare system.

The Forest hosted 19 Native American volunteers in various projects in FY 2009.

Since 2009, a challenge cost share agreement allows the Chippewa National Forest and LLBO to work together over five years on needed maintenance and operations of approximately 45 water impoundments within the Chippewa National Forest.

In FY 2009 there were several contracts and agreements with Native American businesses and cooperators. The Forest awarded 15 contracts to Native American/American Indian owned companies that totaled \$230,281.69.

In 2009, the Chippewa National Forest executed \$741,743.31 in agreements. Of this amount, \$533,911.41 (72%) was for Native American Owned cooperators. A large portion of this money was for the LLBO Steven's Fund hazardous fuels reduction project (\$300,000).

Also, in FY09 the EROC awarded the firefighter proposal to the LLBO. Total dollar amount of that project is \$111,000.00

PARTNERSHIPS

Summer Rabideau Worker Investment Act program completed 8 week program doing conservation projects (Lady Slipper transplant project), basic construction/painting on-site at Rabideau, excavation of original stone sign, developed youth food production project and built natural fence greenhouse, planted more than 100 container gardens and garden vegetables in cooperation with the U of M Extension Service and others. Funded in part by Blandin, Northwest Minnesota Foundation, Initiative Foundation and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

Chippewa National Forest efforts with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe dump site agreement received funding late in the year. The funding will go towards illegal dump site cleanup, cooperative Law Enforcement and education.

We have expanded our outreach efforts to work with multiple program areas if the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Several partnerships targeted toward the Band have been consummated through agreements that include, Day Labor Program, Minnesota Family Investment Program, Worker Investment Act. The Forest continues to work with the Cass Lake/Bena High School STAR Program in promoting conservation education and career awareness to the 10th graders.

In April the Tribal Liaison participated in a Human Resource Management networking meeting that included representatives from multiple Minnesota Ojibwe Bands.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Contacts with Division of Resource Management and Local Indian Councils (15 exist):

- o to discuss project planning and current project implementation efforts and identify concerns, and

- o to identify any historic sites or traditional uses within the project areas.

The project leaders met with LICs with regard to the following projects: Upper East Winnie, Boy River 2, Continental Divide, and Non-native Invasive Plant (NNIP) Management projects. Except for the NNIP project, these are the larger projects completed in FY 2009. In addition there were 1-2 meetings per project with THPO and DRM.

Discussion via phone with THPO and the DRM Wildlife Biologist occurred after publication of each NEPA Quarterly (published quarterly) or Schedule of Proposed Actions. This publication lists all the ongoing and upcoming projects on the forest. This has been an effective way to identify any concerns and to assess the need for further discussion, information, or meetings--particularly on smaller projects.

Continental Divide Resource Management project is located on the Blackduck district and is in a tribal high interest area. District personnel met with Local Indian Councils (LICs) at least five times and met with DRM. Most of the project area is outside the Leech Lake Reservation. The Band appealed the decision on a number of issues. The appeal was reviewed by the Regional Office. The issues raised were deemed to be adequately assessed in the project analysis and disclosed. The District Ranger's decision was affirmed.

Upper East Winnie Vegetation Management Project is located on the Deer River District. The majority of the project area is in tribal high interest area. District personnel met with interested LICs on 8 different occasions. Acres were dropped and treatments for some stands were modified based on input provided.

Boy River 2 Vegetation Management Project is on the Walker District. Treatments in some stands in close proximity to Kego Lake and Smokey Point were deferred in this project.



The *Boy River prescribed burn* is one of several safely executed burns. This fire-dependant wet meadow has had one rotation of fire to each part of its ecosystem, which provides habitat for Yellow Rail and other wetland species. Partners include Cass County, two regions of MN DNR, private owners, the Leech Lake Band, and the Forest Service.

Stewardship projects

"Little Pinky" Stewardship project between Blackduck District & LLBO was awarded in August 2007. The project will use funds generated from a timber harvest to reforest 7 permanent openings in 2008 (14 ac). The site preparation for the opening planting is about 2/3 complete. Timber harvest is scheduled to begin in 2009. This contract was designed to build relationships between the LLBO and the CNF.

Lydick Stewardship project was approved August 2007. Regeneration of jack pine will promote undergrowth such as blueberry, a traditional use plant important to the LLBO. The contract is intended to restore traditional plants and improve relations with regard to trust responsibilities. Contract award is anticipated in 2010.

Evaluation and Conclusions:

During FY 2009, a wide variety of cooperative activities and consultation efforts have been implemented. Work on a Memorandum of Understanding is still in progress. Each of these items helps establish mutual measures and expectations in support of resource management, opportunities for partnering to accomplish Forest Plan objectives, and strengthen government--to--government relations. Further recommendations include:

- Continue steps to draft Memorandum of Understand with the LLBO to help guide working relationships and define a more consistent manner for working together. Focus will be on OHV and tree stand use.
- Develop participating agreement with the Leech Lake Tribal College, that provides Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program participant's greater exposure and practical training in the Forest Service.
- Continue consultation with the LLBO and Forest Staff Specialists on the status of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement with the goals of obtaining a signed agreement in FY 10.
- Continue efforts that facilitate greater involvement of all Tribal members in FS programs and activities afforded the general public.
- Continue connecting key leaders from both governments to help address key issues that may have potential to disrupt relations. Continue to develop relationships and partnerships with LLBO.